

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1 to 15 without prejudice and add the following claims 16 to 27:

Claims 1 to 15 (canceled).

16(new). A climbing device for a climber climbing or descending at least one weight-bearing element (1), said device comprising

releasable clasps (4, 6) each comprising means for clamping said at least one weight-bearing element (1) in response to a downward force acting thereon and means for releasing said at least one weight-bearing element (1) when said downward force is relieved; and

connecting means (7, 8; 17) attached to said clasps (4,6) for holding and supporting said climber so that said climber is able to apply and relieve said downward force;

wherein each of said clasps comprises a resilient time servo-component (9) acting on said means for clamping said at least one weight-bearing element to again clamp said at least one weight-bearing element (1) when a predetermined time interval starting with relief of said downward pressure expires.

17(new). The climbing device as defined in claim 16, wherein said resilient time servo-component (9) is an elastic rubber member, a hydraulic spring or a

pneumatic spring and said means for clamping said at least one weight-bearing element (1) comprises inclined bevels (2) pivotably mounted in said housing and forming an interior space widening downward; cotters (10) positioned on opposite sides of said at least one weight-bearing element (1) in between said inclined bevels (2); rollers (11) arranged movably, but securably, between said cotters (10) and said inclined bevels in said interior space;

wherein said inclined bevels (2) are connected to said resilient time servo-element (9) so that said inclined bevels (2) respond to said time servo-component (9) when said time servo-component acts on said means for clamping.

18(new). The climbing device as defined in claim 16, wherein said resilient time servo-component (9) is an elastic rubber member, a hydraulic spring or a pneumatic spring and said means for clamping said at least one weight-bearing element (1) comprises a slidable yoke (3) arranged in said housing (21) and having an interior space widening downward; cotters (10) for gripping said at least one weight-bearing element and positioned on opposite sides of said at least one weight-bearing element (1) in said an interior space in said yoke (3); rollers (11) arranged movably, but securably, between said cotters (10) and inner surfaces of said yoke (3);

wherein said yoke (3) is connected to said resilient time servo-element (9) so that said yoke (3) responds to said time servo-component (9) when said time servo-component acts on said means for clamping.

19(new). The device as defined in claim 16, wherein said clasps (4,6) for said at least one weight-bearing element (1) comprise at least one upper clasp (4) and at least one lower clasp (6) and said at least one lower clasp (6) is arranged on said at least one weight-bearing element below said at least one upper clasp (4).

20(new). The device as defined in claim 19, wherein said connecting means includes a solid seat (7) and said at least one upper clasp (4) is located at said solid seat (7).

21(new). The device as defined in claim 19, wherein said connecting means includes a system belt (13) and a movable seat (12), said movable seat (12) being attached to said at least one upper clasp (4) by means of said system belt (13), so that a connection between said movable seat and said at least one upper clasp (4) is pressure-stable in a longitudinal direction of said system belt.

22(new). The device as defined in claim 21, wherein said system belt (13) is form-locked in said at least one upper clasp (4), so that said system belt cannot slip out of said at least one upper clasp.

23(new). The device as defined in claim 18, wherein each of said clasps (4,6) has a pulling element (15) attached to said yoke (3), said pulling element comprising manual means for releasing said downward pressure.

24(new). The device as defined in claim 21, further comprising at least one tension spring (16) arranged between said movable seat (12) and said at least one lower clasp (6) and at least one other tension spring (16) arranged between said movable seat (12) and said at least one upper clasp (4), and wherein said at least one weight-bearing element (1) passes through said at least one tension spring (16) and said at least one other tension spring (16).

25(new). The device as defined in claim 24, wherein said at least one weight-bearing element (1) consists of two ropes, and respective ones of said two ropes have corresponding ones of said at least one lower clasp and said at least one upper clasp engaged therewith and are attached to said movable seat (12).

26(new). The device as defined in claim 20, wherein said at least one weight-bearing element (1) consists of two ropes, respective ones of said two ropes have corresponding ones of said at least one lower clasp and said at least one upper clasp engaged therewith; and further comprising frame handles (17) attached to opposite sides of said solid seat (7), said frame handles having respective joints, pedal levers (8) for feet of said climber pivotally connected to said frame handles at respective pivots and rotating cams (18) connected to said frame handles (17) between said respective pivots and said respective joints.

27(new). The device as defined in claim 26, further comprising guide wheels (34) attached to said frame handles (17) over which said ropes are guided and tensions springs (16) arranged between the at least one upper clasp (4) and the at least one lower clasp (6) through which said ropes pass to said feet of the climber.